

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5149

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2204

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, LY

SUBJECT: ONE TUNISIAN MINISTER'S VIEW ON LIBYA

1. DURING LUNCH WITH MINISTER OF ECONOMY AYARI APRIL 15, HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT QADHAFI'S CHANGED ROLE MAY INDEED HAVE BEEN PRECIPITATED BY VIEWS OF RCC. ACCORDING TO AYARI, RCC CONSIDERED QADHAFI'S ILL-ADVISED FOREIGN POLICIES REFLECTED POORLY ON LIBYA AND RCC CHOSE TO CLIP HIS FOREIGN POLICY-MAKING WINGS. AYARI, HOWEVER, DID NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY (PROBABILITY?) THAT QADHAFI HIMSELF TOOK INITIATIVE TO DIVEST HIMSELF OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS.

2. AYARI SAID THAT TUNISIAN DEALINGS WITH LIBYAN CABINET MINISTERS HAVE BEEN VERY SATISFACTORY. GOT CONSIDERS LIBYAN MINISTERS COMPETENT AND "MUCH LIKE TUNISIANS." HOWEVER, RCC MEMBERS, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR QADHAFI, ARE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH.
SEELYE

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